Message from State Superintendent Christopher A. Koch

Lawmakers returned to Springfield this week after a two-week break and will begin to work in earnest to complete their business by the May 31 deadline. They will be considering hundreds of bills, and they most likely will be devoting a great deal of time and attention to crafting a new state budget, as well as dealing with the current budget shortfall that the state is facing.

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with a number of superintendents in Charleston. I want to thank Regional Superintendent John McNary for inviting me. It was a very productive meeting with a lot of good questions and suggestions from the field.

I wanted to take this opportunity to speak with you about underage drinking and the impact that it can have on the lives of our students. According to the United States Surgeon General’s office, nearly 10.8 million young people between the ages of 12 and 20 are underage drinkers. When teens drink, they drink less frequently than adults but much more heavily, and it puts them at risk for being heavy drinkers later in life.

The Illinois Department of Human Services’ Division of Community Health and Prevention is organizing 58 town hall meetings statewide to address underage drinking. These town hall meetings are part of a national effort to increase understanding and awareness of underage drinking and its consequences, and to encourage individuals, families and communities to address the problem.

Using alcohol can result in a number of serious consequences for teens. According to the Surgeon General’s office, 5,000 people under age 21 die each year as a result of underage drinking, including 1,900 young people killed in auto crashes. Underage drinking can result in serious physical problems, including death from alcohol poisoning. It can limit a teen’s ability to reason, lead to risky sexual behavior, and increase the risk of carrying out or being the victim of a physical or sexual assault.

We all know that the teen years are difficult enough to go through without the added problems that can come with using alcohol. These local meetings will provide communities an opportunity to discuss the problems that they are facing and begin to formulate a plan of action. For a list of the Illinois communities participating in the town hall meetings, visit www.stopalcoholabuse.gov.

Thanks, and have a great week.

Chris
Upcoming Deadlines

- Reading Intervention Professional Development to Support Response to Intervention (RtI) RFP – Application – April 3, 2008
- Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 Years RFP – April 7, 2008
- Truants’ Alternative and Optional Education Program (TAOEP) RFP – April 14, 2008
- Migrant Education Program Summer 2008 Application – April 15, 2008
- Deadline for proposed amendments to rules regarding Driver Education (23 Ill. Adm. Code 252) – April 21, 2008
- Even Start Family Literacy RFP – April 25, 2008
- Student Advisory Council applications for 2008-2009 – April 30, 2008
- Charter Planning Grant applications & Charter Implementation Grant applications – April 30, 2008
- Enhancing Education through Technology RFP – May 1, 2008
- Prevention Initiative Birth to Age 3 Years RFP – May 6, 2008
- Deadline for commenting on proposed rules – Part 25; Part 180; Part 235; Part 305; and Part 401 – May 19, 2008
- FY09 Consolidated Application to Serve English Language Learners – June 30, 2008
- Deadline for waiver applications to be considered by the General Assembly in Fall 2008 – August 8, 2008
- Annual Superintendents’ Conference – October 23 – 24, 2008

Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI)

Training Announced for Illinois Response to Intervention (RtI) District Self-Assessment Template

With the development of the State RtI plan, the next step for the stakeholder group was to develop a district self-assessment template. The stakeholder group reviewed self-assessment tools from multiple technical assistance projects, such as ASPIRE, PBIS, and CHOICES. Additionally, the group reviewed RtI self-assessment tools from several different states.

The purpose of this self-assessment template is to assist districts in determining their initial readiness toward implementation of RtI to meet the learning needs of ALL students. This template will assist districts in gathering baseline information regarding current resources and practices addressing scientific research-based instruction, progress monitoring, ongoing assessment and levels of intervention and problem-solving. The template is available at http://www.isbe.net/RtI_plan/default.htm.

ISBE will provide training from 9 – 11 a.m. on Friday, April 11. The training will be offered via a live webcast. The links to the webcast will be as follow (the links are not currently live):

- Real Player http://www.state.il.us/video/streaming/isbe/response-to-intervention-041108.ram

Further information will be provided next week regarding submitting questions during the webcast. Presentation materials will be available online for viewing and printing.

Student Assessment

PSAE Testing Information

For 2007-08, the initial test dates are April 23-24, 2008, with make up test dates of May 7-8, 2008. This results in PSAE scores being available for the Assessment Correction Period in August, when most
schools are either closed or may just be opening for the new school year. It also delays any AYP calculations and production of the school report cards until early fall. For 2008/09, we are considering moving the test administration dates to March 10-11, 2009. Make-up dates would be March 24-25, 2009. Not only would this assist with getting report cards out earlier, but it would also allow us more opportunity to take advantage of Michigan’s activities in relation to translating the ACT. If you have any concerns about moving these dates, please email psae@isbe.net.

### English Language Learning

#### FY09 Consolidated Application Update

Local school districts and Regional Offices of Education are advised that the FY09 Consolidated Application to Serve English Language Learners will be available for downloading at [www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm) beginning the week of April 17, 2008. Short video segments explaining how to complete the application forms for program approval and funding will also be found at this website.

To qualify for both state TBE/TPI and federal Title III funding, the completed application must be received or postmarked by **Monday, June 30**. Applications postmarked after the June 30 deadline will not be eligible for federal Title III funding. Please remember that the Consolidated Application is not yet part of the e-grant system and therefore, will only be available via downloading from the above website.

Additionally, on both May 1 and May 2, the Division of English Language Learning staff will host phone conferences to answer questions related to the application. To access the conference calls, you must RSVP to obtain a call-in number and code. The purpose of the RSVP is to assure that we have an adequate number of phone lines. To download the teleconference RSVP form, click on [www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/consolidated_application.htm). You may submit written questions concerning the application to dell@isbe.net before and after the phone conferences.

Please be advised that the conference calls will take the place of the regional application workshops held in previous years.

If you have further questions, contact the Division of English Language Learning at 312-814-3850.

### Data Analysis & Progress Reporting

#### Title I Status Survey on IWAS

The Title I Status Survey is now available on IWAS. The purpose of this survey is to identify Title I schools for 2007-08 AYP calculations and School Report Cards. The deadline to complete this survey is **Wednesday, May 7**. If you have any questions, please call the Data Analysis and Progress Reporting Division at 217-782-3950.

### Rules & Waivers

#### Invitation to Comment on Rules

Five sets of proposed rules recently reviewed by the State Board of Education are currently available for public comment. These items have been posted on the agency’s web site at [www.isbe.net/rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules); choose “Proposed Rules and Amendments.” Please submit any comments or suggestions you may have to rules@isbe.net.

**Part 25 (Certification)**

Renewal requirements for school service personnel certificate and provisional vocational certificate; redefine early childhood experience for standard certificate; application by National Board-certified teacher for annual stipend; extend validity of certification testing scores to ten years (from five); add content-area test in Arabic; repeal outdated provisions for institutional review; technical corrections and updates.

**Part 180 (Health/Life Safety Code for Public Schools)**

Update cross-reference and accommodate School Facility Occupation Tax Fund.

**Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)**

Technical revision to extend eligibility for teaching positions to all those with valid types of certificates.

**Part 305 (School Food Service)**

Incorporating recommendations from the School Wellness Policy Task Force report regarding school nutrition standards.

**Part 401 (Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code)**
Proposed amendments that will eventually replace the emergency amendments now in effect, as outlined below; updates in cross-references for consistency with revised Part 226.

Deadline for Public Comment: May 19, 2008

Notice of Effectiveness of Rules

Please be advised that four sets of amendments recently adopted by the State Board are now in effect. These rules have been posted on the agency’s web site at www.isbe.net/rules; choose “Rules Currently in Effect” and scroll to the relevant Part number. If you print the affected Sections, please remember to include the table of contents to the Part, since that changes each time a set of rules is amended.

Emergency Amendments to Part 401
(Special Education Facilities Under Section 14-7.02 of the School Code)
Provisions for immediate nonapproval of programs using aversive behavioral intervention techniques that rely on causing pain as a means of control. Requirement for policies stating that such means will not be used.

Effective Date: March 21, 2008, for a maximum of 150 days.

Part 51 (Dismissal of Tenured Teachers Under Article 24 and Dismissal of Tenured Teachers and Principals Under Article 34 of the School Code)
Exception for Chicago teachers under alternative evaluation plan pursuant to Section 34-85c of the School Code (P.A. 95-510).

Affected Section: 51.20
Effective Date: March 21, 2008

Part 226 (Special Education)
Additional requirements for IEPs of students with disabilities on the autism spectrum (P.A. 95-257); timeframe for requesting substitution of a hearing officer; student’s delegation of rights (P.A. 95-372).

Affected Sections: 226.220, 226.635, and 226.690
Effective Date: March 21, 2008

Part 350 (Secular Textbook Loan)
Upgrading to accommodate electronic means of communication.

Affected Sections: 350.15 and 350.25
Effective Date: March 21, 2008

Curriculum & Instruction

2009 Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) grant

The Illinois State Board of Education has released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 2009 Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) grant. Districts should view the instructions under eligible entity requirements found on the first page of the RFP to see if they are eligible to apply.

The application is due on Tuesday, May 1. If you have any questions, please contact Jamey Baiter, Curriculum & Instruction, at 217-557-7323 or by e-mail at jbaiter@isbe.net.

To access the RFP look under What’s New: http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/Default.htm.

Funding & Disbursements

General State Aid – Frequently Asked Questions

A revised version of the General State Aid – Frequently Asked Questions document can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/gsa_faq.pdf. This document contains important information to accurately report attendance for the General State Aid claim and includes topics pertaining to full and part-time attendance, home/hospital instruction, school calendar, alternative schools, special education as well as other related attendance issues. If you have questions regarding this document or the General State Aid claim, please contact Jim Mathes, Funding & Disbursements, at 217-782-5256 or by e-mail at jmathes@isbe.net.

ESTIMATED FY 09 Special Education “Extraordinary” Distribution

Estimated FY 09 district allocations have been calculated for the Funding For Children Requiring Special Education Services program authorized under Section 14-7.02b of the School Code, previously known as Special Education Extraordinary and can be accessed at http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/extraordinary_estimate09.pdf. The estimate assumes the FY 09 ISBE requested appropriation, 2007-08 estimated average daily attendance and preliminary poverty counts from the Department of Human Services. The final two columns
compare the FY 07 allocation to the estimated allocation amount for FY 09.

HB 4148 was signed by the Governor on January 8, 2008 (P.A. 95-0705). The new law made changes to Section 14-7.02b stating that, for fiscal year 2008 and each fiscal year thereafter, individual school districts must not receive payments under that Section totaling less than they received for fiscal year 2007 (commonly referred to as a “hold harmless” provision). However, the language further states that any “hold harmless” funding is to be “computed last and shall be a separate calculation from any other calculation set forth in [Section 14-7.02b].”

The “other calculation” referenced in the new language is the existing split of the entire appropriation--85% based on each district’s average daily attendance and 15% on poverty which were used in General State Aid. Thus, under the new statutory scheme, the AGENCY in FY 09 would complete the 85-15 calculation for each district and, if the amount calculated for any district is less than what the district received in FY 2007.

Districts that are estimated to receive less funding in FY 09 than FY 07 would be eligible for the supplemental funds which is currently estimated at $18,836,023.

Have You Checked The New Census Estimates Affecting Your FY09 Funding?

The U.S. Census Bureau has released the Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) for income year 2005. The estimates will likely be used to calculate FY09 Title I allocations as well as other funding sources for your district.

The SAIPE program produces estimates of median household income and poverty for states, counties and school districts. These estimates are based on statistical models that use decennial census data, household survey data, administrative records data and population estimates. Income year 2005, which drives the funding for Fiscal Year 2009, is the first year SAIPE has used a new survey, the American Community Survey, to fill in the gaps between each 10-year census.

The 2005 PRELIMINARY Poverty Data by Local Education Agency (LEA) as compared to 2004 Final Poverty Data can be accessed at [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/poverty_comparison08-09.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/poverty_comparison08-09.pdf). The 2004 Final Poverty Data were used to determine your LEA’s Title I eligibility and funding for FY08, and likewise, the 2005 PRELIMINARY data will likely determine potential eligibility and funding for FY09. 2004 Final data include foster pupils. Those pupils have yet to be included in the 2005 PRELIMINARY data – please note that this inclusion may change your eligibility status.

When reviewing your LEA’s data, please be aware of the following parameters which determine eligibility for Title I. An LEA must have at least 10 pupils deemed to be in poverty (by SAIPE guidelines) and a poverty percentage of at least 2% to be eligible for Basic Title I funding. If a district has at least 10 pupils deemed to be in poverty, and a poverty percentage of at least 5%, the LEA is eligible for two additional funding streams; Targeted and Education Finance Incentive Grant (EFIG). When a district has at least 10 pupils deemed to be in poverty and a poverty percentage greater than 15%, or at least 6,500 in poverty, then that LEA is eligible for a fourth funding stream; Concentration funding.

The following link to the Census Bureau, [www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/), provides an explanation of various aspects of the SAIPE count including information on challenge procedures for estimates. It is insightful to compare the current year poverty estimate to prior year estimates to gauge the fluctuation of poverty, which in turn, affects funding. If you choose to question or challenge the Census Bureau data, the challenge period ends on April 7, 2008.

Please be aware that the Illinois State Board of Education neither controls nor generates the data. State Superintendent Koch sent a formal letter of appeal to the United States Census Bureau in March, but it was determined that no changes will be made to the Illinois data.

Educator Preparation & Recertification

Alternative Route to an Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified Teachers

Illinois institutions of higher education that have an approved principal preparation program may now apply to offer a course of study leading to an Administrator Certificate for National Board certified teachers who
qualify to enter the program. The course of study must be approved by the Illinois State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board. Any institutions interested should complete and return ISBE Form 77-22 which can be found on the web at [http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/77-22_admin_cert.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/77-22_admin_cert.pdf). Instructions may be found at [http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/77-22_admin_cert_instructions.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/77-22_admin_cert_instructions.pdf).

Applicants for the Alternative Route to an Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified Teachers must meet four criteria:

1. National Board certification and a Teacher Leadership Endorsement;
2. A master’s degree in an approved Teacher Leader program from an accredited institution of higher education;
3. 15 hours of coursework; and

If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Williams, Educator Preparation & Recertification Division, at 217-57-6763 or by e-mail at dwilliam@isbe.net.

*Nutrition*

*Food Safety*

Food safety and security are important aspects of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Nutrition Assistance Programs and the Food and Nutrition Service’s (FNS) Food Safety Unit. These two organizations coordinate food safety and security efforts for all Food Distribution Programs.

This unit works closely with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) which is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring the nation’s commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act.

On the USDA website – [http://www.commodityfoods.usda.gov/fd_safety.htm](http://www.commodityfoods.usda.gov/fd_safety.htm) – you will find a great deal of food safety resources and a list of all holds and recalls of food products.

**Westland Meat recall**

By now, all schools affected by the Westland Meat Company recall should have disposed of any cases of beef subject to the recall. If you have done so already, please fill out the Destruction Verification and Reimbursement Form and fax it to the Food Distribution Program at 217-782-4550. If you have any questions regarding the recall or the reimbursement procedure, call Food Distribution Program staff at 217-782-2491 or access the information on the Food Distribution Program website at [http://www.isbe.net/business.htm](http://www.isbe.net/business.htm).

**Are you considering starting a School Breakfast Program at your school?**

If so, join the 42 schools who have thus far taken advantage of the $3,500 state-funded start-up grant for 2007-2008! Funds can be used toward any non-recurring costs (costs related to start-up of the program only), equipment (refrigeration equipment, serving equipment, warming trays, carts, menu boards, toasters, cereal dispensers, etc), outreach and materials (conference attendance, brochures, flyers, menus, etc). Any school that does not currently operate a School Breakfast Program, but agrees to operate a program for at least 20 serving days in the start-up year and 3 years beyond, is eligible to apply.

The application process is simple – go to [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition) and click on the box entitled “School Breakfast Program.” Funds are still available for the 2007-2008 school year. Application materials for the 2008-2009 school year will be available on-line in early July.

**Summer Food Service Program – submitting applications**

Now is the time to submit your application for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). Visit the SFSP website at [http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm](http://www.isbe.net/nutrition/htmls/summer.htm) and click on the Application link or the New Sponsor link, whichever is applicable. Mandatory workshops for all new sponsors are also in full swing.

For more information and to register, access the website above and go to Workshop Information. If you have any
Federal Grants & Programs

Training for FY 09 NCLB Application (Title I, II, IV and V grants)

Training for all grant coordinators for the completion of the FY 09 NCLB Application (Title I, II, IV and V grants) will be conducted via teleconference from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, and repeated from 9 – 11 a.m. on Tuesday, April 29.

A Power Point presentation along with telephone and confirmation numbers can be found online at http://www.isbe.net/htmls/egrants_workshop.htm.

This training will be more effective if you have access to the Power Point presentation during the training. Each district will be able to make as many copies of the presentation as necessary to share with colleagues.

For questions, contact Amy Eskew, Federal Grants & Programs, at 217-524-4832 or by e-mail at aeskew@isbe.net.

Understanding and Selecting Evidence-based Programs for Your 2008-2009 – Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Application

SDFSCA Workshop Purpose & Target Audience: To provide Safe and Drug Free Schools’ coordinators and administrators with core strategies, practices and frameworks necessary for implementing quality evidence-based programs.

Selecting and implementing quality prevention programs that meet the needs of your school is critical for effectiveness. However, locating and utilizing data to develop an effective Safe and Drug Free Schools’ application can be challenging. This workshop is designed to help you utilize data and the Principles of Effectiveness to implement evidence-based prevention programs. Workshop topics will include locating existing and meaningful data, developing reasonable objectives and tailoring research-grounded programs to your school’s needs.

Workshop Time: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Dates/Locations:

- **Tuesday, April 8**
  South Cook Intermediate Service Center (SCISC4)
  253 W. Joe Orr Road
  Chicago Heights, IL 60411
  708-754-6600

- **Thursday, April 17**
  Department of Human Services
  333 Potomac Blvd
  Suite F, PO Box 1607
  Mt. Vernon, IL 62864-0032
  618-242-8460

- **Thursday, May 15**
  University of Illinois Extension
  Champaign County
  801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite D
  Champaign, IL 61821
  217-333-7672

Additional information can be found online at www.safeschoolsil.net. For questions, contact Albert Holmes, Federal Grants and Programs, at 312-814-3618 or by e-mail at aholmes@isbe.net.

21st Century Community Learning Centers Spring Workshop Planned

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) Statewide Spring Workshop, “Growing Strong Programs,” will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at the Holiday Inn Select Convention Center, 18501 S. Harlem Ave, Tinley Park, Ill.

This is a mandatory, day-long meeting for all Illinois grantees, particularly Project Directors and Site Coordinators. Registration is free and can be found online at http://www2.learningpot.org/21stcclc. Check in on the day of the meeting begins at 8 a.m., with the meeting commencing at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at 3 p.m.

Highlights of the day will include keynote presentations by the Illinois Teacher of the Year, Ruth Meissen, and USDE 21st CCLC Team Leader, Shawn Susan Stelow. Grantee-led workshops on varied topics related to quality programming will provide opportunities for networking and learning. Statewide updates will include information by the statewide evaluator to assist grantees with completing the 21st CCLC Continuation Application for FY09 Funding.
For additional information about the meeting, please contact Gail Meisner, Federal Grants and Program Division, at 217-524-4832 or by e-mail at gmeisner@isbe.net.

**Early Childhood**

**FY 09 Prevention Initiative Birth to Age 3 Years RFP Released**

The Prevention Initiative Birth to Age 3 Years: 09 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new funds has been released. This RFP is for Prevention Initiative programs offering coordinated services to at risk children and their families. Public school districts, university laboratory schools approved by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), charter schools, area vocational centers, and other entities are eligible to submit a proposal. Applicants other than public school districts must provide evidence of existing competencies to provide early childhood education programs.

The RFP is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block_grant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/html/block_grant.htm). The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835.

Prevention Initiative Bidders’ conferences will be held for this RFP. Attendance at a bidders’ conference is recommended but not required. Security procedures require a photo identification for entry at each location.

There is a form on the Early Childhood website for submitting questions prior to the Bidders’ Conference entitled Submit Questions Regarding the PI RFP by April 2, 2008. Questions that are submitted will be answered during the Bidders’ Conferences.

**Springfield**
IEA - Professional Development Center
3440 Liberty Drive
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
9 a.m. to Noon

**Chicago**
State of Illinois Building (Bilandic Building)
160 North LaSalle (Across from James R. Thompson Center)
Thursday, April 10, 2008
9 a.m. to Noon
5th Floor, Room C-500

If you would like to attend, please respond to Yaya Madrigal by e-mail at ymadrigal@Ounceofprevention.org and indicate which location you will attend.

**Additional Resources for Preschool for All RFP Available**

The Preschool for All Children Ages 3 to 5 Years – 09 Request for Proposals (RFP) for new funds was released on Tuesday, February 26. The RFP is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/earlychi/preschool/default.htm). The RFP can also be obtained by contacting the Early Childhood Division at 217-524-4835. The following resources have been added to the website.

- FY 09 Preschool RFP Review Rubric
• Resource Document for Responding to Statement of Need in FY 09 Preschool RFP
• Two PowerPoint Presentations from the Bidders’ Conferences
• PFA Bidders’ Conference
• DCFS Licensing Information

Professional Development

Third Annual High School Challenge Conference

The Coalition for Illinois High Schools presents the Third Annual High School Challenge Conference: Leadership and Learning: Connecting the Dots – Monday, June 16 and Tuesday, June 17 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington.

This conference is designed for all those involved with and interested in the work of Illinois high schools including: superintendents, school administrators, teachers, school board members, curriculum directors, special education and ELL directors, ROE/ISC/RESPRO staff, business leaders and university personnel. You are especially encouraged to bring a district team.

Conference participants will leave the conference with:

- Practical strategies that have improved student performance in Illinois high schools;
- Tools that can be used for data analysis and decision making;
- Research-based strategies that support student learning;
- Information about practical follow-up support for Illinois high schools.

More information, including registration materials and fees, can be found online at http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/pdf/hsc_leadership_conf_08.pdf. For questions, call the Illinois Principals’ Association at 217-391-0848 or e-mail the IPA at sos@ilprincipals.org.

Student Opportunities

Slogan contest for 2008 Illinois State Fair

The theme for the 2008 Illinois State Fair will be "A Family Tradition," and feature a contest inspired by the well-known 1950s advertising campaign for Burma Shave. The Illinois State Fair is scheduled for August 8-17, 2008.

As part of the 2008 State Fair, the contest is modeled after Burma Shave’s advertising campaign and encourages children statewide to submit five-line rhymes that reflect the theme. Winners will be featured on State Fair promotional materials and signs.

Entries are being accepted from the general public, but the committee choosing the winners will set aside several series of sign slogans submitted by children in grades K-8. Each entry must consist of five lines of text with up to four words maximum on each line. A sixth line – "Illinois State Fair August 8-17" – will be added to the end of each rhyme.

Entries will be accepted by mail and online through Friday, April 11. The winners will be announced at an event this spring, the same time the Grandstand line-up for this year’s fair will be unveiled.

Those seeking examples of Burma Shave signs can Google search “Burma Shave slogan” or visit http://www.fiftiesweb.com/burma1.htm. Applications and instructions are available on our website at www.illinoisstatefair.info.

Employment Opportunities

ISBE External Vacancy List

An External Vacancy List for the Illinois State Board of Education is available at: http://www.isbe.net/hr/Default.htm.

In the News

Weekly news clips

ISBE has posted highlights from last week’s education news clips at: http://www.isbe.net/news/2008/newsclips/080328.htm.